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(a) immobilizing a molecule expressing a selected epitope in a sample to a selected surface;

(b) contacting the surface with an epitope detector so that the epitope detector binds to immobilized molecules on the surface, said epitope detector comprising an oligonucleotide attached to a monoclonal antibody for the selected epitope, a single chain Fv for the epitope or a constrained epitope specific CDR;

(c) amplifying the oligonucleotide of said epitope detector;

(d) adding the amplified oligonucleotide to a transcriptase based reaction or a replicase and transcriptase based reaction to increase sensitivity; and

(e) detecting the amplified oligonucleotide.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the amplified oligonucleotide is detected via contacting the amplified oligonucleotide with a fluorescent dye or probe which stains the oligonucleotide and measuring fluorescence emitted from the stained oligonucleotide which is indicative of epitope detector bound to the surface and molecules expressing the selected epitope in the sample.